

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A support assembly to secure a roof bar, having a longitudinal mounting portion via which articles are secured to the bar, to a vehicle roof mounting so that in use the bar extends generally transversely across the vehicle, said assembly including:

a base to which the bar is to be secured;

a user manipulated part mounted in the base and operated by a user to secure and release the assembly with respect to the vehicle mounting, said user manipulated part including a threaded portion, a securing member connected to said threaded portion, an eyelet opening in said securing member for engaging said vehicle roof, and a threaded shaft to engage said threaded portion;

a movable cover mounted on the base to inhibit access to said part and longitudinal mounting portion, the cover being releasable for movement relative ~~for movement~~ to the base to expose said part and mounting portion; and

a lock operatively associated with the base and cover to secure the cover to said base to inhibit access to said part and longitudinal mounting portion, and operable to release the cover for the movement relative to said base

wherein said securing member is tensioned to inhibit relative movement between the vehicle and assembly.

2. (Currently Amended) The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said cover is ~~captively~~ attached to said base.

3. (Original) The support assembly of claim 2, wherein said movement includes pivoting movement about an axis and movement along a predetermined path.

4. (Original) The support assembly of claim 3, wherein said axis is generally horizontal when said assembly is secure to said vehicle.
5. (Original) The support assembly of claim 4, wherein said path is located generally in a vertical plane when said assembly is secured to a vehicle.
6. (Original) The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said movement is provided by projections on said cover slidably engaged in tracks in said base.
7. (Original) The support assembly of claim 1 wherein, said lock includes a lock cylinder mounted in said cover and operable to engage said base.
8. (Original) The support assembly of claim 1, wherein said base has a cavity via which the user has access to said part, with said cover being movable relative to said base to close said cavity to inhibit said access.
9. (Currently Amended) The support assembly of claim 1, wherein ~~said part is a threaded shaft having a longitudinal axis, with the user causing~~ angular movement of said shaft causes the assembly to be secured and/or released the assembly with respect to the vehicle, with said shaft being slidably supported in said base for angular movement about ~~said~~ a longitudinal axis of said shaft.
10. (Original) The support assembly of claim 9, wherein said longitudinal axis is generally vertically extending when said assembly is mounted on the vehicle.
11. (Canceled)
12. (Currently Amended) The support assembly of claim ~~44~~ 1, wherein said securing member is a strap assembly including a strap body to extend between the base and vehicle mounting, ~~and~~

~~a threaded portion threadably engaged with said shaft so that movement of said threaded portion changes the tension in said strap when said strap is engaged with the vehicle mounting.~~

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The support assembly of claim 7, wherein said lock cylinder is key operable and includes a projection that is angularly movable between a first position engaged with said base to retain the cover in a position inhibiting access to said part, and a second position releasing the cover with respect to the base.

15. (Original) The support assembly of claim 1 further including a mounting adaptor that is to be secured to the vehicle mounting, and wherein said part threadably engages said adaptor and is tensioned to secure the assembly to the vehicle.

16. (Currently Amended) The support assembly of claim 1 ~~further including a securing member attached to the base to secure the bar to the base, and~~ wherein said securing member is accessible only when said cover is positioned to provide access thereto.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Original) The support assembly of claim 1 further comprising a roof bar, and wherein said mounting portion includes at least one longitudinal flange.